

## Beginning To Begin (Nehemiah 2:9-20)

- I. The Survey Of The City (Vs. 11-16)
  - A. It Was A Personal Survey (Vs. 12-13)
  - B. It Was A Planning Survey (Vs. 13-16)
  - C. It Was A Prayerful Survey (Vs. 13-16)
- II. The Sensitivity Of The Citizens
  - A. The Problem Was Identified (Vs. 17)
  - B. The Power Was Verified (Vs. 18a-b)
  - C. The People Were Unified (Vs. 18c-d)
- III. The Speech Of The Scoffers (Vs. 10, 19-20)
  - A. The Rousel Of The Scoffers (Vs. 10,19)
  - B. The Reply To The Scoffers (Vs. 20)

## Beginning to Begin (Nehemiah 2:9-20)

I read this recently: "A teakettle singing on the stove was the beginning of the steam engine. A Shurt wailing on a cellophone was the beginning of a ballad.

the forerunner of the Goetz Zeppelin. A Spider web strung across a garden path suggested the suspension bridge. An apple falling from a tree was the cause of discovering the law of gravitation. "Everything has a beginning.

The Beginning of the walls of Jerusalem going up is found in the latter verses in Chapter 2. Like my daddy always

said, you got to start somewhere! As we go through Neh remember we are to be rebuilding walls too. They may not be of brick and mortar but they are just as important. But in order to rebuild we have to start somewhere. Where do we start? you might ask. That is a good question that is answered in this section of the book of Nehemiah. We can all start to rebuild the broken down walls of our lives by noting the 3 actions <sup>in heart before</sup> ~~outline~~

## I. The Survey of The City - VS 11-16

Nehemiah had been told of the condition of the walls and a great burden fell on his heart. But now I can only imagine how

that hinder has been interfused by seeing the  
**A. Personal Survey** VS 12-13. This was a personal first hand survey. This was an inspection of what would seem like an overwhelming task 1.5-2.5 circumference of the city. He went to every gate and personally assessed the damage. This can be applied to us by a personal Survey of our hearts. And going forward in growth, has sin made inroads and <sup>broken walls...</sup>  
**B. Planning Survey** - He was also considering the costs of rebuilding. Planning is vital to the success of any project. The people of Israel were a defeated, fearful, discouraged people. They needed a dependable, sure, and responsible leader. What plans need to be made for the walls to rise in our heart in our church. What as some of the costs <sup>entertainment</sup> time pleasure  
**C. Prayerful Survey** - Note vs 12 "what my God had put in my heart..." Like I said before this tour of the battlefield must have been overwhelming. A lot like going before the King was overwhelming. All bet through tears of sorrow, there was much calling on God for strength and wisdom power and blessing to to the task that lay before him.

**II. The Sincerity of The Citizens** (VS 17-18)  
Nehemiah had Survey the damage. The calculations had been made the list of necessities was composed. Now it was time to

1) ...seeing the damage first hand. Lamentations 3:51 Mine  
eye affecteth mine heart ...

1) Vainly have I used to say "God called me to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable". It just may be that you need someone to tell you that you have not reached the pinnacle in the Christian experience. Notice the words he used and "we...us...we". Mission - "When we blame and criticize others, we squelch motivation. When we identify with the problems and difficulties, we encourage motivation."

2) ...work of God. God took those hands a strengthened them in the last that lay ahead.



1) ...seeing the damage first hand (lamentations 3:21 Mine  
eye affected mine heart ...

1) Vance Havner used to say "God called me to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." It just may be that you need someone to tell you that you have not reached the pennicle in the Christian experience. Notice the words he used also "we...us...we." Mattoon – "When we blame and criticize others, we squelch motivation. When we identify with the problems and difficulties, we encourage motivation.

2) ...work of God, God took those hands a strengthened them for the task that lay ahead.

enlist the assistance of the people. <sup>be done alone</sup> It could not  
A. The Problem was identified (Vs 17)-

The men are gathered the men together  
(Jews, priests, nobles, rulers, rest that did work and)  
told them the truth. He identified the problem

Jerusalem is in waste we are a reproach. They  
may have grown complacent with the condition  
A lot of times it takes an outsider to say this is  
no way to live to get our attention. Vance Hunter

B. The Power was Verified (Vs 18a+b) - Then...  
God's hand was upon him. This enormous  
daunting task before them may have  
also seemed unthinkable and impossible.  
But Nehemiah verifies that there is more

going on than a spring cleaning to do  
list. God turned the heart of the King. I  
imagine Nehemiah showed them the decrees <sup>approval</sup> and of

C. The People were Unified (Vs 18c+d) -

Let us do it Nehemiah. I recently was  
given a picture of the ground breaking at Temple  
That was a group of men that said let us  
rise up and build. Everyone was laboring  
and giving and hoping. Looking forward to  
what God could do. Vs 18d. Because they  
yielded their hands to do this work of God

II. The Speech of the Scoffers (Vs 19-20)

Chiz time you set out to do something  
for God, there will be those that will  
contest, detract and scoff at what you are

trying to do. clls just pay for the corpse.

A. The Rousal of Scaffers (VS. 10, 19) VS 10  
Sandallat the Horonite and Tehiah the Ammonite  
were upset that someone was concerned with  
the welfare of Jerusalem. Grievous = to tremble  
quiver, to be displeased. They were exceedingly  
so. They were pretty angry that someone came  
in with plans to change the status quo. Sandallat  
was from Beth Horan 12 miles from Jeru. Probably  
the governor of Samaria. Tehiah was an Ammonite  
related to some Nehemiah's workers and even the priest  
Eliaship. They had control over Jeru and Nehin  
was a risk to their power. VS 19 They laughed at their

B. The Reply to Scaffers VS 20 - clls never  
forget hearing a Black preacher preach  
a message called "You can't stop God." Boy  
that's exactly how Nehemiah responded  
to this scaffing. In faith, believing,  
trusting he assures them that "he which  
hath begun a good work in you will perform  
it unto the day of Jesus Christ." We are his  
servants so we are going to do what God  
wants us to do. I like what he says next.

VS 20d You ain't got no business around  
here. They had no share, legal right, or historical

IV. Closing - Remember that old Chinese proverb  
the Journey of 1000 miles starts with one  
step. You gotta start somewhere!  
Why not here. Tonight. Have you <sup>servants</sup> been <sup>sensitive</sup> <sup>scott</sup>



1) They laughed at the attempts of God's people to rise up and reestablish themselves as a power to be reckoned with. Laughed means to utter repeatedly words of derision and scorn. All I could think of was "na-na-na-boo-boo." They were trying to intimidate and discourage the people from following God. They also accused them of rebelling against the king. Trying to use a bold face lie to dissuade them from going on.

2) ...historical claim to Jerusalem. One Author – "Nehemiah was committed and would not be intimidated to the point of ineffectiveness, instability, or insanity. He had the blessing of the king and most importantly, the blessing of the Lord."